

## ***Voter Registration F.A.Q.'s***

***(Frequently Asked Questions)***

### **Who can register to vote?**

Any U.S. citizen who is 17 years old and reaches 18 years of age by election or primary day; is a bona-fide resident of Hartford; if previously convicted of a felony, has had his/her voting rights restored by the Registrar; and truthfully fills out a voter registration application (Form ED-671).

### **How do I register to vote?**

Contact us in person or writing, or by phone, fax, or e-mail requesting a mail-in application; use the motor vehicle application received with your driver's license application; or you may download and print the card at <http://www.hartford.gov/voters>. Cards must be signed and mailed to the Registrars of Voters, 550 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103, or to the Registrars of Voters of the town or city in which you reside.

### **Where do I vote?**

For your convenience, a street locator has been created to show you important voting information. To view it go to <http://www.hartford.gov/voters/polling>. Just click on your street to get your district number, then click on your district number for your polling place.

### **NOTE:**

**Primary and General Elections are held at the above locations from 6:00am to 8:00pm. All persons are eligible to vote in the following: General Elections - all registered voters 18 years of age and older. Primary Elections - those who meet the above requirements, plus be a member of the appropriate political party. To find out more information about your voting district, please phone us at (860) 757-9830.**

### **When do I vote?**

**In Hartford, there is a general election EVERY November.** Election Day is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The polls open at 6:00am and close at 8:00pm.

### **Who does what at the polls?**

**Moderator:** The moderator is in charge of the polling place and performs or directs all operations during the voting day.

**Assistant Registrars:** (there are two): The Assistant Registrars assist the Moderator in the polling place overseeing the voting operations on Election Day and also assists voters whose names cannot be found on the Official Check Registry List.

**Checkers:** The Checkers check off the names of voters as they present themselves to vote. They also monitor the identification presented by voters prior to having their names checked off. All voters must be checked off before voting.

**Unofficial Checkers:** The Unofficial Checkers, sometimes called "Party Checkers" make

a note of the number of all persons voting so this information can be picked up and brought to the respective party campaign headquarters by runners assigned by the various political parties involved in the election.

**Tabulator Tenders:** The Tabulator Tenders are stationed near the Voting Machine ready to assist all voters. They also monitor the voting area to make certain that voters have been properly checked of and leave the area after voting. They make certain that no campaign literature or debris is left around the machine and that nothing has defaced the machine.

**Demonstrators:** The Demonstrator will greet the electors and offer to demonstrate the new process; sample ballots and instructions will be available.

**Ballot Clerks:** The Ballot Clerk is responsible for the accounting and reporting of all ballots before, during, and after the election.

In addition to the above Election Officials:

**Registrars of Voters:** Overall responsibility for the conduct of the election, including the proper training (and certification where needed) of all election officials and workers; proper setup and operation of all voting machines; all election supplies needed at the polling places; making proper determinations of the eligibility of residents to vote; preparation and distribution of all official voting lists and the distribution of all official literature; overseeing absentee voting and the hiring and supervising of all election officials and workers.

**Deputy Registrars of Voters:** Responsible for assisting in the election administration including class training for poll workers, and determining eligibility to vote on Election Day. Assumes duties of Registrar of Voters in their absence. It is important to note that procedures, number of poll workers, number of voting machines, hours of operation are all carefully specified by State statutes.

**Head Moderator:** Responsible for the supervision of the voting count at the end of the election, monitors all tally sheets and transports results to office of the Secretary of the State.

**Town Clerk:** Responsible for originating and reproducing absentee ballots, responding to requests for absentee ballot applications and issuing ballots upon their proper completion, as well as sample ballots for polls.

**Absentee Ballot Moderator:** Responsible for the proper conduct of the absentee ballot counting operation.

### **Who are Hartford's Registrars of Voters and how do I contact them?**

**Salvatore Bramante**, Republican and **Shirley A. Surgeon**, Democrat  
Telephone #(860)757-9830 Fax #(860) 722-6331, TDD #(860)722-6321

### **What do the Registrars do?**

As Chief Election Officials, they are responsible for the proper conduct of all Federal,

State and local elections, primaries and all referenda. Additionally, conduct mandated voter making activities, encourage and promote this activity among the citizens of Hartford. Supervision and maintenance of all voter information and lists.

**Why should I vote?**

It is absolutely critical to our Democratic processes that we all exercise our right to vote. Choosing people who represent us in just about every facet of our lives is a very important responsibility in a Democracy.

**Does my vote really make a difference?**

As many elections (particularly local ones) are won or lost by very small margins (over the years we have had several elections won or lost by single digit numbers) everyone's vote is meaningful.

**Are Registrars voted into office?**

Hartford Registrars of Voters are elected to four year terms. The last election was the 2004 Presidential Election. The next election will be November 2008. The current term ends 1/5/2009.

***FAQ's on Voting and Registration Procedure***

**Why should I register with a Political Party?**

Under Connecticut Statutes you cannot vote in a Political Party's Primary unless you are a member of its Party.

**If I am not in a Political Party, what is my status called?**

You are an "unaffiliated" voter.

**If I join a Political Party, must I vote for that party's candidate?**

Your vote is secret and you may vote for anyone you choose in the November election.

**What maintains the integrity of the Registration System?**

There is a Registrar of Voters from each major Political Party and election officials and workers for the most part have representation from each major Political Party.

**Under what conditions can I vote by Absentee Ballot?**

- You are on active duty with the Armed Forces
- You are absent from town during all the Voting Hours on Election Day
- You are ill
- You are physically disabled
- Your religion tenets forbid secular activity on the day of Election, Primary or Referendum
- You are working as an election official or worker at a polling place other than your own.

**How can I get an Absentee Ballot?**

Contact the Town Clerk's Office at (860)757-9750 or stop by their office in City Hall and request an application, fill it out and return it to the Town Clerk. Once the Town Clerk's

office receives your application request a ballot will be mailed to you.

**Why should I tell the Registrars when I move into town?**

It is important to vote in the correct district to make sure you are voting for the office holders who represent you as they differ through-out the City. When you move, call **757-9830** and inform the

Registrars of your address change within the City. When we do our mandated Annual Canvass of Voters, beginning in January each year, the Registrars might be advised that you have moved. If your forwarding information has expired, and we cannot determine your address, your name

will be removed from the active voting list to the inactive, which may cause you a delay at the polls.

**What if I move out of town?**

It is necessary to register in your new town.

**If I move back into Hartford, do I need to re-register?**

Yes, whenever you break residency you must re-register.

**What if I am in the Armed Forces and move about frequently?**

Armed Forces members are treated differently and will be retained at the address they give us until we are advised differently, or they can contact their base recruiting officer to obtain a federal post card application.

**What if I am in a nursing home?**

You may retain your prior address even if the nursing home is out of town so that you may continue to vote for the people and offices you are most familiar with.

**What happens if I am convicted of a felony?**

A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to confinement in a State of Connecticut correctional institution/facility or community residence shall be eligible to have such person's voting privileges restored upon the release from confinement, and, if applicable, parole.

**Here's How:**

1. Contact the Registrars of Voters in the town where you live to obtain a voter registration card. You can also obtain voter registration cards from any public library, the DMV, DSS or any other voter registration agency.
2. Fill out the voter registration card and submit the card to the registrars of voters in the town in which you live either a.) in person or b.) by mail.

**How do I make changes to my voting status or information?**

All voter status changes are made with the application form which is a multiple use form. Changes of address, name and Party enrollment changes as well as new registration can be done on Form ED 671--

Mail-In Voter Registration Application.

**If I am not presently in a Party, how quickly can I join one?**

If you are not currently in a party, you will be in the new Party of your choice immediately upon the receipt, by the Registrars, of your completed Form ED-671 (See Above). There is a 90 Day waiting period to change from one political party to another party, then you are automatically placed in your new Party. If you want to go from your present political party to Unaffiliated, the 90 Day rule also applies. A new registration card (ED-671) must be filed for any party changes.